

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2008. Applicant has amended the application as set forth above. In specific, Claims 1, 3, and 7-11 have been amended. All the features of the amended claims are fully supported by the originally filed application. Thus, the amendments do not add new matter to the application. Upon the entry of the amendments, claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 3, and 7-11. As for “macsumsuk”, Applicant respectfully submits that macsumsuk is an ore comprising elvan and amphibole (Korean Registered Trademark No. 317866, register in 1995). Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over KR 1020020022634A in view of JP 11-221572. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. However, in order to clarify the inventive points of the invention, Applicant has amended Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 of Instant Application (*Emphasis added*)

. A water purifier comprising:
a sediment filter removing rust and floating matters in the water;
a pre carbon filter removing chlorine and impurities in the water;
a ceramic material tube for improving the water molecule, and maximizing movement of the water molecule and making weak alkali water by radiating far infrared ray;
a silver carbon filter removing odor and bacteria in the water and activating the water;
and
a ceramic filter removing various harmful matters in the water.

wherein the ceramic material tube comprises;

a first magnet tube which is made of permanent magnets whose N pole or S pole are arranged at upper or lower portion, respectively, and the water flows between the permanent magnets;

a layer of a plurality of bio ceramic balls made of serpentinite hornblende;

a layer of a plurality of tourmalin ceramic balls made by firing tourmalin at high temperature;

a layer of a plurality of alumina ceramic balls;

a layer of a plurality of natural black jades;

a layer of a plurality of sericite ceramic balls having wavelength range which are similar to that of human body and made by firing rough sericite at high temperature;

a layer of a plurality of bio macsumsuk ceramic balls made of rough macsumsuk (ore comprising elvan and amphibole);

a layer of a plurality of antibiotic ceramic balls, and

a second magnet tube which is made of permanent magnets whose N pole or S pole are arranged at upper or lower portion, respectively.

Cited References Do Not Anticipate Claim 1

Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a functional water purifier comprising a sediment filter, a pre carbon filter, a ceramic material tube, a silver carbon filter, and a ceramic filter. Especially, the ceramic material tube comprises layers of bio ceramic balls, tourmaline ceramic ball, alumina ceramic balls, sericite ceramic balls, and bio macsumsuk ceramic balls, all of which are enveloped on both sides of them by first and second magnet tubes.

As the Examiner correctly pointed, KR 1020020022634A in view of JP 11-221572 fails to disclose a ceramic filter including magnets and ceramic materials, that is, an element equivalent to the ceramic material tube.

However, Applicant does NOT agree with the Examiner in stating “*JP 11-221572 discloses a water purifier comprising: a cylindrical casing (4) containing ceramic materials (7) and magnets (5).*”

Applicant respectfully submits that the ceramic material (7) is too broad to disclose the inventive features of the invention, which includes layers of bio ceramic balls, tourmaline

ceramic ball, alumina ceramic balls, sericite ceramic balls, and bio macsumsuk ceramic balls. There are at least FIVE variations in ceramic material in the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the limitations cannot be treated as trivial or obvious over the cited reference.

In addition, Applicant submits that *JP 11-221572* does NOT teach anything about the shape of the various ceramic materials, which are 'balls'. (See Figs. 2, 4, and 7) They are shaped as cubes or boxes, and their main function is not filtering but rather treating water with anti-oxidant material (ceramic-included anti-oxidant material).

Therefore, KR 1020020022634A, JP 11-221572, or their combination does not teach the features in structure and associated function of the present invention. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Dependent Claims

Although applicant has not addressed all the issues of the dependent claims, applicant respectfully submits that applicant does not necessarily agree with the characterization and assessments of the dependent claims made by the examiner, and applicant submits that each claim is patentable on its own merits. Claims 2-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 discussed above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests prompt allowance of the claims.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited, if required, under *Examiner's Amendment*. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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